

new revelation. I found that I had been only glad, not grateful. I have been telling Him with grateful feelings ever since, to my soul's help and comfort."

### A FIRE

MRS. ELLEN GNAGEY LIGHTY

Some time ago the city of Lincoln had a fire; it destroyed about a quarter of a million dollars' worth of property in several hours. Fireman worked with all their might to destroy the fire, the people came running from all over the city until the fire had hundreds of people looking on, and the firemen had many fault finders, and *oh it was simply awful*. After the fire hundreds of people gathered on the streets day after day to see the ruins and when the brick walls were pulled down (the skeleton of the building) hundreds of people stood around to watch the scene. Policemen were kept busy watching people, teams and street cars, to keep them from being crushed. We had at the same time another fire in this city in the shape of saloons, but as this fire was burning slowly and victoriously there was little attention paid to it, but several days later, the men of the city met in the form of an election to decide whether or not this fire should be put out. It was understood that if the fire was kept up it *must* have more fuel; it was understood that the mothers were to furnish the fuel; it was also understood that those who were to furnish the fuel were to stay at home on that special day and abide with the decision. There were enough church members in the city to put the fire out, but you would no doubt be surprised to know that some of the ministers thought it advisable to keep the fire burning, also many of the churchmembers. And of course all the ungodly men and sinners of the lowest type agreed with them that the fire must be kept burning *and burn it does*. Several Christians fought like tigers to put the fire out, but all in vain. The majority ruled. Now then the fire is going on in full blast; the mothers are compelled to furnish the fuel; boys and girls are being burned up daily, soul and body, homes are destroyed. One skeleton after another is being lowered in the cemetery and it is simply awful. Tongue nor pen can express the awful misery that is caused by this fire. But a very few seem to be excited about it; they go along as tho nothing had happened. Brethren are *you* sleeping on election day, are *you* helping to keep up the fire or are *you* helping to put it out?

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Beware of striking hands with Satan. There is often a temptation to the Christian to accept this unholy peace of compromise with sin. But so long as we are loyal to the King, we must expect constant warfare with the King's enemies.

The hardest and best arithmetic we can learn is this: so to number our days as to apply our hearts to wisdom.

## BRETHREN EVANGELIST

### The Sunday School

LESSON FOR JUNE 12

BY THE EDITOR

Jesus Crucified.—Matthew 27:35-50.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15:3.

LESSON THOUGHT.—Jesus would not save himself on the cross because he came to save a world of sinners.

#### Home Readings

The Traitor's Death. Matt. 27:1-10.  
Jesus before Pilate. John 18:28-38.  
Jesus before Herod. Luke 23:1-12.  
Jesus Delivered. Matt. 27:11-32.  
Jesus Crucified. Matt. 27:33-50.  
Jesus Forsaken. Psalms 22:1-31.  
Jesus Suffering for us. 1 Pet. 2:13-5.

#### Introductory Notes

*Introduction.* In our last lesson we studied the trial and condemnation of Jesus. Today we are to study his crucifixion. Every student of the Bible should make himself thoroughly familiar with all the facts of the crucifixion, and to do this read first of all the accounts given by the four evangelists. All four record it, and tho there may be some slight differences in the record, yet on the important facts they agree. In reading these accounts do not become confused because one relates what another does not, or perhaps what may appear contradictory. Take a pencil and paper and note down the main facts as given by each and when you have finished the four accounts, compare your notes. You will then be surprised to find how nearly these accounts do harmonize. The record is found in Matt. 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-37.

#### Meaning of the Text

35 *Crucified him.* This was the most cruel and awful form of death. The torture of one who had thus to die is indescribable. Of this form of death Cicero says, "It was the most cruel and shameful of all punishments. But the most revolting feature of death by crucifixion was that the torture was deliberately prolonged. The victim usually lingered a whole day, sometimes two or three days, still retaining consciousness; while the burning of the wounds in the hands and feet, the uneasiness of the unnatural position, the oppression of overcharged veins, and above all, the intolerable thirst was constantly increasing." Pictures usually represent the cross as much higher than it really was, the feet of Jesus being but a foot or two from the ground. Jesus was on the cross but five or six hours. His sufferings were in spirit rather than in body, for he was bearing the sins of the whole world. *Parted—garments.* The outer garments they divided into four parts, casting lots for the seamless tunic rather than rend it in pieces. In this the heathen soldiers unconsciously fulfilled divine prophecy.

36, 37 *Sitting down.* The soldiers sat

down and watched lest a rescue might be attempted by the friends, as was sometimes done. *Accusation.* It was the custom to write on a board the crime for which the person was suffering. In the case of Jesus it was written in three languages. Latin, Greek and Hebrew so that all the people could read it. The inscription was very unsatisfactory to the Jews, and they ordered Pilate to change it, but that officer having been made to do once what he did not want to do, will not allow the Jews to triumph again, so he answered, "What I have written I have written."

38-44 *Two thieves.* Probably partners of Barabbas in crime. *Passed by.* That is the one strolling crowd coming out to look hurled their taunts at Jesus. *If thou.* They said if he would come from the cross they would believe on him, but they lied. *Saved others.* It was said in mockery, but bearing unconscious witness to the mighty works of Christ, his miracles, etc. *Thieves also.* One of them afterward repented. See Luke 23:40.

45-50 *Sixth hour.* That is at noon, the darkness continuing three hours, or till three o'clock. *Eli, Eli,* etc. An expression of utter loneliness and desolation, the deep meaning of which no one can explain. See Psalm 22:1. *Callest for Elias.* Seemingly spoken in heartless mockery, tho some suppose that the words of Jesus were misunderstood, and really thought that he was calling for the prophet. *Sponge—vinegar.* The sour wine which the soldiers had in a vessel for their own use. An apparent act of kindness. *Cried again.* This was the sixth word from the cross and was followed by the seventh and last, "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46. *Yielded up the Ghost.* His spirit, and thus the end came, the curtain dropped and the most wonderful tragedy recorded in history was over.

#### The Lesson Applied

1. *They crucified Him.*—Let us stand here with uncovered heads and ask what all this meant. Why did they crucify him? What evil had he done? The blessed Jesus who came into this world with but one purpose, and that to save sinners. He went about doing good, he healed the sick, he raised the dead. What peace and joy he brought into human hearts and homes and lives, and yet this man was crucified. What a cruel world this must be. It was sin that did it. Your sin, my sin. O, what a terrible thing sin is. Who would love sin, knowing that it is the knife that stabbed the heart of Christ. Let us hate sin with a perfect hatred, and love the Savior with a perfect love, because he opened a way that will enable us to escape the power and consequences of sin.

2. *They Watched Him.*—Three classes of people were close to the cross watching the Savior as he suffered. First were the careless soldiers. They had often seen the like before and were so hardened that it seemingly had no effect upon them. All they could